

THE FALCON FLYER

Week of October 25, 2004



Dear Floral Families,

We hope that you are enjoying October, despite the lack of sleep many of us are experiencing due to Red Sox Fever! It is fun for us to watch how excited the students are about this cultural phenomenon. Let's hope that this is the year!

Each of us will be available on Wednesday to meet with parents and caretakers who are visiting our school for Parent Conference Day. Please stop by the office to talk if you have any questions or feedback. We look forward to seeing you!

We would like to congratulate the following teachers for achieving **professional status** in the Shrewsbury Public Schools. Professional status, which is similar to tenure, is awarded to teachers after their first three years in Shrewsbury if their performance meets the high expectations of the school district. These teachers, who have demonstrated superb skills and effort in teaching our students, will be honored at a reception this evening. Congratulations to **April Bradt (Grade 2), Lynne Grossman (Grade 1), Maureen Henry (Reading Specialist), Susan Lane (Physical Education), Tina McGrail (Grade 1), Jennifer Rickard (Grade 4), and Heather Wojcik (English as a Second Language)**. We are fortunate to have such outstanding teachers working with our children!

~ Joe Sawyer & Patty Padilla

Important Notes:

- **Dismissal procedure change for "front door walkers":** Beginning today, **Monday, October 25**, the "front door walkers" will be dismissed at **3:30**. Since Floral opened, this group has been released at the end of dismissal, due to concerns about bus traffic. With the new school hours, buses have been arriving by 3:30, and after consultation with the Shrewsbury Police we have decided to release these walkers to the crossing guard at the start of dismissal. **Parents of front door walkers, please adjust your schedules to reflect this change of dismissal to fifteen minutes earlier.** Thank you.
- **There will be a shortage of parking this coming Friday, October 29 due to Fall Festival and a district-wide teacher training session.** The blacktop will be open for parking all day. Please do not park on both sides of the back driveway or near the dumpsters. Thank you.
- **Now that the weather is cool, please be sure that your child comes to school dressed appropriately. Students will not be allowed to go to recess if they do not have the proper clothing for the temperature.** Thank you!
- **Wednesday, October 27 is Parent Conference Day.** There is no school for students. There will be **limited** childcare available between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. for children ages 5 to 11 while parents/caretakers meet with teachers. This is being provided for parents/caretakers who cannot make arrangements for babysitting. We ask that, if possible, you coordinate childcare with neighbors or with a babysitter. Shrewsbury High School also is not in session on October 27, so you may wish to utilize a high school student for your childcare needs.
- Please consider the following tips for getting the most out of a parent-teacher conference:

- 1) Bring a friendly, open attitude to the conference. This is a great opportunity to hear firsthand about your child's school experience thus far.
- 2) Arrive on time and stick to the time frame. If issues arise during the conference that need more time for discussion, schedule a follow-up meeting with the teacher.
- 3) Prior to the conference, think about questions you have or information you hope to learn. Inform the teacher so that she or he is aware of what you want to know. Many teachers will provide a conference sheet for you to submit ahead of time in order to help them focus the discussion.
- 4) Ask for examples if you aren't sure what the teacher is communicating.
- 5) While your child's strengths will be highlighted, so will weaknesses. As a parent, it is always difficult to hear about difficulties your child may be having. Try to resist being defensive, and don't look to fix blame on your child, yourself, or the teacher. Instead, try to adopt a problem-solving attitude: "What can we do together to help my child improve?"
- 6) If school was not a positive experience for you, try to separate your previous experience from that of your child.

Remember that the teacher and you have the same goal: *the success of your child.*

Lunch Menu: October 26-November 1				
Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Monday (next week)
Ziti with meat or Marinara Tossed salad Italian grinder Macaroni salad Watermelon	No School: Parent Conference Day	Italian baked chicken Rice pilaf Buttered corn Bake apple slices Italian grinder Macaroni salad Watermelon	Sal's Fresh Pizza Pasta Salad Grapes Italian grinder Macaroni salad Watermelon	Hot dogs Pasta salad Fresh fruit cup Chicken patty sandwich Grapes

Floral Street School – Important Dates

October 27	No School – Parent Conference Day
October 29	Fall Festival (look for info from classroom teachers)
November 2	No School – Professional Development Day (Election Day)
November 11	No School – Veterans' Day
November 16	PTO (6:30 family pizza supper; 7:00-8:00 meeting)
November 24	Half Day (Dismissal at 12:30)
November 25-26	No School – Thanksgiving Vacation
December 6	First Trimester Report Cards Issued
December 24-31	No School – Christmas Vacation
January 17	No School – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
January 18	No School – Professional Development Day
January 25	PTO (6:30 family pizza supper; 7:00-8:00 meeting)
February 21-25	No School – Winter Vacation